Mary Says Yes to God

Engage: Page 33

► **Ask:** What is something that will happen for sure today? Can you name something that is going to happen a year from today? **Say:** We don't know what the future will bring us, but it can be something good, not something to worry about.

► Read aloud the poem together. Have your child track the words with his or her finger. **Say:** You don't have to worry about what will happen next because you have faith in God. God is always with you.

► Discuss upcoming events with your child. **Say:** You can have faith that God will take care of you. Then pray aloud the prayer together. Conclude by praying **Amen.**

Explore: Pages 34–35

► **Ask:** How can we deliver a message to someone? (e-mail, text, letter, in person) Choose one way and send a message of love to a family member.

► Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 34. Point out the words *angel* and *Mary.* Help your child find them in the Glossary and discuss the definitions. **Say:** God sent an angel named Gabriel to earth with a message for Mary. Help your child complete the activity to find out the message. Then read it aloud together. Explain that some angels are messengers and some angels are guardian angels who watch over us.

► Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. Discuss the meaning of the angel Gabriel’s words for Mary. **Say:** Mary trusted God and his plan for her.

► Read aloud the directions. **Ask:** What was Mary’s answer to God? (Yes.) Have your child circle the word *Yes* and color the picture. **Say:** Mary is the Mother of God. She is our Mother too.

► Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** From her first moment of life, Mary was free of Original Sin. [If necessary, review the term *Original Sin* in the Glossary.]
Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 6 Blackline Master

- Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Mary with the angel Gabriel.
- **Ask:** What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including naming the people he or she sees.
- **Say:** We see the angel Gabriel asking Mary to be Jesus’ mother. **Ask:** What did Mary say? (Yes.) **How do you think she felt?** (surprised, nervous, excited)
- Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 6. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- Read aloud the section An Angel Comes to Mary. **Ask:** What message did the angel Gabriel have for Mary? (God wanted Mary to be Jesus’ mother.) **Say:** God chose Mary out of everyone in the world. By saying yes, Mary did what God asked her to do.
- Read aloud the section Yes, God! and help your child complete the activity. Discuss ways that your child can say yes to God at home, at school, and on the playground.
- Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** God blessed Mary’s cousin, Elizabeth, with a boy named John. John was a good friend to Jesus.
- In advance, cut out small squares of construction paper. Write the word **YES** and ask your child to copy it in large letters onto a sheet of drawing paper. Show your child a picture of a mosaic artwork. Explain that a mosaic is an ancient way of making pictures. Then help your child glue the squares of paper on the letters to make a mosaic.

Reflect: Pages 36–37

- Together look at page 36. **Ask:** What is the girl looking at? (a flower) **What do you think about when you look at God’s creation?** (Answers will vary.) Read aloud the title and the introductory sentences on page 36.
- **Say:** The Church prays a prayer to honor Mary. The prayer is called the Hail Mary. It begins with the words that the angel Gabriel said to her. When we pray the Hail Mary, we show our love for Mary and for Jesus.
- Pray aloud each line of the Hail Mary and ask your child to repeat after you. Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.
- **Ask:** Who are special women in your life who love you? (grandmothers, aunts, sisters, teachers) **Say:** Mothers are special people. Read aloud the title and the text on page 37. **Say:** We honor Mary with a celebration called May Crowning in the month of May. At a May Crowning, a crown of flowers is placed on a statue of Mary. Have your child color the picture. Invite him or her to share it with family members.

Respond: Page 38

- Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the words **angel** and **Mary.**
  **Say:** We have talked about how Mary said yes to God’s plan.
- Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** Dear Jesus, help me say yes to God the Father as Mary did. Help me be loving and kind like you. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.